

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

JOHN D. HARRISON
DIRECTOR

April 23, 2003

Ms. Emily DeRocco
Assistant Secretary
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room S2307
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Ms. DeRocco:

Enclosed is the State of Alabama's request for a waiver to increase the transfer authority between Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams from 20 percent to 50 percent. This greater flexibility will allow our local workforce investment areas to move funds to where they are most needed. These needs are very difficult to predict ahead of time. This waiver request is filed in accordance with the process described in Section 189(i)(4) of the Workforce Investment Act.

We are very proud of our commitment to support local flexibility whenever possible. We believe that approval of this waiver request will have a positive impact on those who are eligible for services under the Workforce Investment Act.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (334) 242-5591.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of John D. Harrison in black ink.

John D. Harrison
Director

JDH: nr

Enclosure

cc: Helen Parker

**State of Alabama
Waiver Request
Workforce Investment Act
Transfer Authority**

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Workforce Development Division, as the agency designated by the Governor of Alabama to receive WIA funds, requests a general waiver to increase the transfer authority of local workforce investment boards from 20 percent to 50 percent in Adult and Dislocated Worker funds. The results of this increase in transfer authority include further empowering the local workforce investment boards and providing better services to customers by being able to put the funds where they are most needed.

In compliance with WIA Section 189(i)(4)(B) and WIA Regulations at 661.420(c), please accept the following as a request for waiver.

1. Statutory Regulations to be Waived:

WIA Section 133(b)(4) and WIA Regulations at 667.140 state that a local board may transfer, if such transfer is approved by the Governor, not more than 20 percent of the funds allocated to Adult and Dislocated Worker employment and training activities.

Alabama requests that the Governor be given authority to approve a request from a local board to transfer up to 50 percent of a program year allocation for adult employment and training activities and up to 50 percent of a program year allocation for dislocated worker employment and training activities between the two programs.

2. Goals to be Achieved by the Waiver:

Granting of this waiver will increase local flexibility to manage funding and respond to changes in the labor market. Eligible applicants will benefit because funds will be able to be used where needed.

3. State of Local Statutory or Regulatory Barriers:

There are no existing state or local statutory or regulatory barriers to implementation of this waiver request.

4. Description of the Goals of the Waiver and Expected Programmatic Outcomes:

The waiver will provide local workforce investment boards the ability to better respond to changes in the economy and the local labor market. The programmatic impact will be the flexibility to channel resources to the population with the greatest need at that time, thereby providing a more efficient usage of available funds.

5. Description of the Individuals Impacted by the Waiver:

Adults and Dislocated Workers eligible for the program will be positively impacted by the waiver since local boards will be able to move significant funding to reflect the actual needs of the area.

6. Description of the Process to Monitor Progress:

The ADECA Workforce Development Division will be the entity responsible for the approval process and monitoring all transfers of funds. This waiver will be incorporated into the Workforce Development Division's WIA monitoring procedures.

7. Opportunity for Local Boards to Comment on the Waiver Request:

This waiver request was first suggested in conversations about funding availability with local area boards. All local boards are in support of this waiver request.

8. Public Comment on the Waiver Request:

The waiver request has been discussed with members of our State Workforce Investment Board. Without exception, board members have supported the opportunity to provide greater flexibility to the local boards that is represented by this waiver request.

Alabama believes that this waiver will provide greater flexibility to local areas in our State, provide better services to our customers, and allow local areas to better use the funds allocated to them.